

Taking Action



Above: Neighbors gather at the Spring Social held on March 24, 2001 to kickoff the Near Northwest planning process.

Each of our neighbors harbors a wealth of knowledge and experience that could help us in our lives. All we have to do is talk to them.

– Lissa Bengston, Los Angeles Heights/Keystone Neighborhood

Introduction

This chapter of the Near Northwest Community Plan focuses on the community's goal, objective and action steps for creating a group responsible for overseeing plan implementation.

In each of the following chapters, Heart of the Neighborhood, Getting Around Town and Places Where We Play, Gather and Learn, Lead Partners are identified who volunteered to serve as coordinators to bring together all of the groups needed to achieve the proposed action. The Near Northwest Coalition either will serve as the coordinator or encourage the identified Lead Partner to take action towards plan implementation.

Near Northwest Community Plan



Plan participants gather in Near NW t-shirts



Neighbors at the Plan Conference

Goal 1 - Leadership

Capitalize on the Near NW's strong neighborhood associations and community groups to build coalitions to implement the plan, improve communication and increase community participation.

Objective 1.1: Power in Numbers

Organize a Near NW Coalition to begin plan implementation, communication efforts and participation initiatives.

Action Steps:

1.1.1 Create a representative coalition group for all neighborhood associations and other community groups in the Near NW community. This group could work to:

- *educate city officials and departments about neighborhood needs using existing and new forums,*
- *monitor progress,*
- *evaluate goal achievement,*
- *facilitate informative dialogue about how, where and for whom public money is being spent,*
- *maintain contact with elected officials and City departments,*
- *monitor the Zoning and Planning Commission agendas, and*
- *organize regular summits among agencies and organizations that impact the Near NW community.*

1.1.2 Develop a new communication process or enhance existing communication efforts to provide information to coalition members as well as share information about Near NW community needs with other agencies and organizations.

Timeline: Short (1 – 2 years)

Lead Partners: All Neighborhood Associations (NAs), Jefferson – Woodlawn Lake CDC

Partnerships: CoSA, Public agencies

Funding Sources: Minimal cost

Timeline: Short (1 – 2 years)

Lead Partner: Near NW Coalition

Partnerships: CoSA, NAs

Funding Sources: Government funds, Grants

1.1.3 Create a committee structure to achieve Near NW Community Plan goals, objectives and action steps.

Potential committees could include:

- *Outreach Committee (Objectives 3.5 and 10.1) tasked with increasing participation by residents, churches, youth and businesses,*
- *Public Safety/Traffic Committee (Objectives 4.1, 5.2 and 5.3) tasked with investigating and initiating traffic calming improvements,*
- *Concerned Citizens for Bike Riders (Objective 4.3) tasked with improving bikeway safety and increasing the number of bike lanes,*
- *Code Compliance Committee (Objective 7.1) tasked with organizing educational efforts, identifying code compliance violations and building a stronger working relationship with the Code Compliance Department,*
- *Youth Commission (Action Step 8.1.1) tasked with addressing issues of concern to area youth,*
- *Newsletter Committee (Objective 10.2) tasked with compiling an informational newsletter, and*
- *Other Committees as needed.*

Timeline: Short (1- 2 years)

Lead Partner: Near NW Coalition

Partners: CoSA, NAs, Community leaders

Funding Sources: Minimal cost

1.1.4 Investigate the possibility of hiring a staff person to assist the Near NW Coalition in achieving the goals, objectives and action steps identified in the plan. Pursue funding sources.

Timeline: Mid (3 – 5 years)

Lead Partner: Near NW Coalition

Partners: CoSA, NAs, Community leaders

Funding Sources: Grants

Near Northwest Community Plan